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USINFO FOR P/RM, AR, P/PFL, VOA/BRL, P/G
STATE FOR ARA/CEN
WHITE HOUSE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
ATTN: PRESS SECRETARY FITZWATER

E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: REMARKS FOR USIA REPORTERS BY SENATOR LUGAR
AT RESIDENCE OF AMBASSADOR PIEDRA ON 1/14/85

1. SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR, MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL U.S. DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURATION OF VINICIO CEREZO AS PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA, MET WITH USIA REPORTERS 1/14/85 AT THE HOME OF U.S. AMBASSADOR ALBERTO PIEDRA. PRESENT AT THE INTERVIEW WERE TOM MULLINS OF TV/NN, ANDREW LLUBERES OF P/PFL, AND MIKE DRUDGE OF VOA/BRL. TOM MULLINS' TV CREW INCLUDED LUCY CONGER, WHO POSED THE QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON BY THE GROUP.

2. TEXT OF INTERVIEW AS FOLLOWS. (BEGIN TEXT):

Q (LUCY CONGER FOR USIA/TV): SENATOR LUGAR, IN LIGHT OF GRAMM-RUDMAN, WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF THE UNITED STATES LOANING GUATEMALA THE MONEY IT NEEDS?

A. VICE PRESIDENT BUSH, IN HIS CONFERENCE WITH INCOMING PRESIDENT CEREZO THIS MORNING, HAS SAID THAT WE ARE GOING TO FIND ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR GUATEMALA IF THE PLANNING THAT HAS BEEN DONE BY OFFICIALS FROM GUATEMALA AND THE UNITED STATES CAN BE FOLLOWED THROUGH. THERE ARE SOME COMMITMENTS THAT GUATEMALA HAS MADE, THERE ARE SOME COMMITMENTS THAT WE HAVE MADE--AND I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE FULFILLED ON BOTH SIDES.

Q (LUCY CONGER): CAN YOU PLEASE TELL US WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL IMPRESSION OF GUATEMALA'S NEW PRESIDENT, AND HOW WAS HE RECEIVED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON?

A. VINICIO CEREZO IS A VERY CHARMING INDIVIDUAL. HE COMPLETELY CAPTIVATED THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND 11 OF OUR 17 MEMBERS WERE THERE FOR AN EXTENDED COFFEE AND QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH HIM. I THINK THAT WAS THE GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL AS OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. I MET HIM AT THE NOVEMBER

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PAGE 002
TOR: 142303Z JAN 86

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GUATEM 00428

3RD ELECTION SITUATION, AND I WAS DELIGHTED TO RENEW THAT ACQUAINTANCE THIS MORNING. I THINK HE IS IMPRESSIVE. HIS LEADERSHIP OF THIS COUNTRY IS SO IMPORTANT AND THE LEADERSHIP HE MAY GIVE TO THE GENERAL CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC PICTURE IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT.

Q (LUCY CONGER): SENATOR, LAST WEEKEND THE CONTADORA GROUP ISSUED A NEW CALL FOR RENEWED BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NICARAGUA. DO YOU THINK THAT SUCH TALKS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AND WHAT ACTION MIGHT THE COMMITTEE TAKE TO ENCOURAGE SUCH TALKS?

A. WELL, FOR THE MOMENT, WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE CONTADORA PROCESS, BUT IT HAS RUN OUT OF STEAM IN OUR JUDGEMENT, THAT IS IN THE COMMITTEE'S JUDGEMENT. I WAS ENCOURAGED WITH PRESIDENT CEREZO'S THOUGHTS TODAY THAT HE IS PREPARED TO TRY TO AFFIRM WITH NICARAGUA AS WELL AS OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES THAT DEMOCRACY IS THE WAY. DEMOCRACY HAS TO BE THE WAY IN WHICH CIVILIZED COUNTRIES DEAL WITH EACH OTHER, WITH TRUST. IF CEREZO IS GOING TO COME DOWN HARD ON THE SIDE OF DEMOCRACY, NOW THAT'S WHAT WE WANT. I SUPPOSE THAT THE PROBLEM WILL BE: ARE THERE NEW CHANNELS THROUGH A CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT, THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PRESIDENTS, OR ANY WAY IN WHICH THIS NEW VITAL PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA CAN GET THE POINT ACROSS TO THE NICARAGUANS THAT IF WE CAN TALK ABOUT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, THEN WE HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT AND CONCEIVABLY THEN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE USEFUL.
(END TEXT) WATERS
END OF MESSAGE

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